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BROWNHILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Chief Public Health Inspector,
ON THE WORK OF THE
Public Health Services.

1962

STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. H. SHORE, M.D., D.T.M. and H., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

R. H. MANN, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

J. G. CROWE, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

K. BLOWER, M.A.P.H.I.

D. PICKERING, M.A.P.H.I. (from June, 1962).

Chief Clerk :

E. MARKLEW.

Assistant Clerk :


J. GRIFFIN.

Pupil Public Health Inspector :

W. RIDLEY (from October, 1962).

Handyman :

S. WRIGHT.



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BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1962

Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Jackson and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report for the year 1962.

In the Brownhills Urban District in 1962 the Live Birth Rate was 22.18 (adjusted 20.18) per 1,000 population, and the Death Rate 10.52 (adjusted 15.25), compared with the respective figures of 18.0 and 11.9 for England and Wales. There were 609 live births in the district (297 male, 312 female) and the total number of deaths was 289. The Natural Increase, i.e. live births registered exceeding deaths, was thus 320.

The increase in the Live Birth Rate is entirely due to an increased number of female babies. The increase in the Death Rate, on the other hand is entirely due to a larger number of male deaths. The number of male deaths at 174 showed an increase of 39 against 1961, whilst the number of female deaths at 115 remained unchanged. An analysis of the male deaths shows that the increase is mainly the result of Coronary Disease and other Heart Diseases. The number of male deaths from Cancer remained practically unchanged. On the other hand, more females died from Cancer than in 1961, but there were fewer female deaths from Heart Disease. Generally speaking the increase in the number of deaths occurred in the age groups 0-5 years and 50-70 years.

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 16, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 26.27 per 1,000 live births, compared with a figure of 21.4 for England and Wales. The latter rate was the lowest annual rate ever recorded for England and Wales. Thirteen of the sixteen infants who died in the district were under one week of age.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Jackson and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
H. SHORE,
Medical Officer of Health.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The Brownhills Urban District is in the southern half of the County of Staffordshire on the fringe of the Birmingham conurbation.

The altitude of the district varies from 420 feet to 600 feet above sea level.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There is still a decline in the part mining plays in the employment pattern of the district. This decline is being offset by the continual growth of new industries into the district.

AREA AND RATEABLE VALUE

The area of the district is 6,307 acres. The rateable value is £213,701. The sum represented by a penny rate is £792.

POPULATION

The Registrar General's figure for the estimated population is 27,450 (mid-year). The provisional population according to the 1961 census was 26,392, which showed an increase of 4,550 over the 1951 census. The density of population is 4.3 per acre.

HOUSING

The following is a summary of houses built during 1962 :—

By private enterprise	217
Permanent houses by the local authority	240
By local authority for sale to the public	49

BIRTHS, 1962

Live Births :—

			Male		Female		Total
Legitimate	..	..	285	..	301	..	586
Illegitimate	..	..	12	..	11	..	23
Total							<u>609</u>

The number of illegitimate live births was 3.7% of the total live births.

Still Births :—

			Male		Female		Total
Legitimate	..	..	5	..	7	..	12
Illegitimate	..	..	—	..	—	..	—
Total						..	<u>12</u>

The number of live births gives a birth rate of 22.18 per thousand of the population. The area comparability factor for births is 0.91 and this gives a corrected birth rate of 20.18.

Still Births numbered 12. This gives a still birth rate of 0.43 per thousand of the population, or a stillbirth rate of 19.32 per thousand total births (live and still). The total live and still births was 621.

DEATHS, 1962

Deaths numbered 289. 174 males and 115 females.

This gives a crude death rate of 10.52 per thousand of the population and a standard death rate of 15.25 per thousand (the area comparability factor is 1.45).

DEATHS, 1962.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1	4
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	5	3	8
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	—	10
Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	7	7
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	12	28
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	12	25
Coronary disease, angina	38	15	53
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5
Other heart disease	23	23	46
Other circulatory disease	5	5	10
Influenza	2	1	3
Pneumonia	9	1	10
Bronchitis	15	3	18
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	—	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	3	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	3	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	2	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	12	23
Motor Vehicle accidents	6	1	7
All other accidents	2	3	5
Suicide	2	1	3
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All causes	174	115	289

The death rate (per thousand of the population) for Tuberculosis is 0.16, for Pneumonia 0.36, for Influenza 0.10 and Bronchitis 0.65.

DEATHS—AGE DISTRIBUTION.

Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 & over	Total
16	5	3	1	1	4	8	19	47	61	124	289

63% of the deaths occurred in persons over 60 years of age.
37% were under 60 years.

Deaths from Cancer and Bronchitis :—

	1961	1962
All cancer	44 (32 males, 12 females)	53 (31 males, 22 females)
Cancer of lung ..	13 (all males)	10 (all males)
Leukaemia ..	3 (all males)	—
Bronchitis	18	18

Deaths from Cancer of the Lung, 1953-1962 :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1953	3	—	3
1954	1	1	2
1955	6	1	7
1956	4	—	4
1957	4	—	4
1958	7	—	7
1959	14	2	16
1960	4	3	7
1961	13	—	13
1962	10	—	10
Total 1953-1962 ..	66	7	73

Heart disease and vascular lesions still contribute most to the death rate (48% of all deaths).

Deaths from Coronary Disease, 1953-1962 :

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1953	15	9	24
1954	13	4	17
1955	18	7	25
1956	10	4	14
1957	13	13	26
1958	19	10	29
1959	15	11	26
1960	20	17	37
1961	19	12	31
1962	38	15	53
Total 1953-1962 ..	180	102	282

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Disease	Under 1 week	1 week to 1 month	Months							Total
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-9	9-12	
Prematurity	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Anencephaly	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hydrocephalus	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebral compression (Tentorial tear)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total ..										16

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one year of age	..	..	16
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births		..	26.27
There were 2 illegitimate deaths recorded.			
Legitimate Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	23.89
Illegitimate Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	87.00

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	..	..	14
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	22.98

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants under one week of age	..	..	13
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	21.34

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	..	Nil
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	Nil

PERINATAL MORTALITY.

Total still births and deaths under 1 week of age	..	25
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	40.25

The table below compares the main rates for Brownhills Urban District, and England and Wales:—

Brownhills U.D.				England and Wales
Birth rate	..	..	20.18 (per 1,000 pop.)	18.0
Still birth rate	..	..	19.32 (per 1,000 pop.)	18.1
Death rate	..	..	15.25 (per 1,000 pop.)	11.9
Infant Mortality Rate	..	..	26.27 (per 1,000 live births)	21.4

The following table compares the main rates in the district for 1960, 1961 and 1962:—

	1960	1961	1962
Birth rate	20.48	19.32	20.18
Still birth rate	19.57	20.87	19.32
Death rate	11.57	13.78	15.25
Infant Mortality rate	14.51	17.76	26.27
Neo-natal Mortality rate	12.70	14.20	22.98
Maternal Mortality rate	Nil	1.73	Nil
Perinatal Mortality rate	32.02	31.20	40.25

INFANT MORTALITY RATE FOR THE LAST FOURTEEN YEARS.

(Rates per 1,000 live births).

Year	Number	Rate	Year	Number	Rate
1949 ..	9 ..	21.9	1956 ..	14 ..	37.2
1950 ..	17 ..	43.7	1957 ..	15 ..	35.0
1951 ..	9 ..	27.8	1958 ..	17 ..	32.6
1952 ..	10 ..	29.7	1959 ..	9 ..	18.25
1953 ..	12 ..	33.1	1960 ..	8 ..	14.51
1954 ..	11 ..	30.4	1961 ..	10 ..	17.76
1955 ..	5 ..	15.1	1962 ..	16 ..	26.27

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 and over	Age un- known	Total
Measles	5	20	10	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	41
Scarlet Fever ..	—	4	15	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23
Whooping Cough ..	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	5
Food Poisoning ..	—	4	6	2	—	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	19
Dysentery	—	6	5	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	16
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The case rates per thousand of the population in respect of certain infectious diseases are as follows :—

Meningococcal Infection	..	..	..	..	0.00
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	0.83
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	0.18
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	0.07
Measles	..	..	..	..	1.49
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	0.18
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio-encephalitis)	..	..	..	..	0.00
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	0.69
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	0.58

With regard to Infectious Diseases this was not a measles year. Notifications numbered 41 against 971 in 1961.

There were two short outbreaks of Bacillary Dysentery and Food Poisoning.

No case of poliomyelitis occurred.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1953-1962

Disease	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Measles	557	9	547	5	426	467	231	17	971	41
Whooping Cough	101	14	30	90	107	8	68	179	13	5
Scarlet Fever	15	19	5	17	23	55	37	38	14	23
Pneumonia	23	14	7	23	26	13	16	11	25	5
Erysipelas	5	2	4	1	3	2	5	1	3	2
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	—	4	—	1	—	1	4	6	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	11	—	181	—	—	34	17	—	16
Food Poisoning	?	15	—	20	—	—	1	2	2	19

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS IN 1962			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 „	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 30 „	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
30 to 40 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40 to 50 „	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50 to 60 „	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
60 to 70 „	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
70 and over	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Total	3	3	1	1	3	1	—	—

The following table shows the number of cases remaining on the register at the end of each year :—

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
1953 ..	81	87	14	23	205
1954 ..	93	96	15	24	228
1955 ..	92	87	17	23	219
1956 ..	97	92	19	23	231
1957 ..	105	101	18	23	247
1958 ..	121	100	17	27	265
1959 ..	127	107	19	26	279
1960 ..	135	106	20	25	286
1961 ..	142	110	19	26	297
1962 ..	144	111	19	24	298

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Welfare, Maternity, School Health and Tuberculosis after-care services are under the control of the County Council. Within the general ambit of these services the appropriate clinics are held at places suitably accessible for the district.

The Home Help, Home Nursing and Ambulance services are also provided by the County Council.

HOSPITALS.

General : Walsall General and Walsall Manor Hospitals.

Maternity : The district is mostly served by Lichfield and Walsall Maternity Hospitals and Ivy House Hospital, Cannock.

X-ray facilities : At Hospitals and Mass Radiography unit, Ambulance Station, Walsall.

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Stafford branch of the Public Health Laboratory Services.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Coombe House,
Brownhills.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1962

*To the Chairman and members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. JACKSON AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my third annual report on the work of the Public Health Inspectorate.

In this foreword I can refer only briefly to the outstanding achievements in the year's work and to rely upon the pages which follow to indicate in more detail the achievements and setbacks of the year.

In spite of difficulties, slum clearance work proceeded steadily and has kept pace with the house building programme. 100% meat inspection was maintained and the two slaughterhouses were modernised and brought up to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food standards. They are good examples of what small private slaughterhouses should be.

The Council's caravan site at Clayhanger was being developed during the year and should provide a useful supplement to the housing accommodation of the district. No provision has however been made for nomads, who continue to be a recurring problem. The provision of sites for such people would seem to be an answer to the problem. Although the administrative difficulties would be immense, the provision of an experimental site would be worth while to improve their social conditions and would lead to the integration of these people within the rest of the community.

PART II—STAFF

It is pleasing to report that, as forecast in the 1961 Annual Report, all the members of the staff undertaking courses of study have been successful in obtaining their qualifications. As a result one officer has been appointed an additional inspector for a temporary period and another pupil has been appointed. This should result in a more efficient service to the public by the department.

PART III—WATER SUPPLY

The public water supply is controlled by the South Staffordshire Water Works Company. There have been no cases of shortage of supply and the quality has been maintained.

Many of the Company's mains run through areas of the district affected by mining subsidence, and although the Council are not made aware of the repair works carried out, there is no doubt that the Company must maintain a constant vigilance. This Department took 136 samples from house taps, so that the Council in its turn, could be sure that the water supply was pure and wholesome.

R. H. Taylor, Esq., the Engineer-in-Chief of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company has supplied the following information :—

- “ 1. The supply to the area has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity.
2. The supply to the Urban District of Brownhills is derived from pumping stations outside the boundaries of the Authority. All the water from these pumping stations is examined regularly and frequently both bacteriologically and chemically. Where treatment is practised samples of the raw waters are also examined bacteriologically.

During 1962, routine samples were examined from the Municipal Buildings at Brownhills, from High Street, Clayhanger and from the Waterman's house, Norton Canes. 13 samples from Clayhanger, and 11 samples from the Waterman's house were all satisfactory, as were 13 samples from Brownhills.

98 samples were examined from the Norton Canes area and 85 were found to be satisfactory. The feed to the district was examined at Chapel Lane where all samples taken were found to be satisfactory. 46 samples were also examined from the Coppice Road—Camden Street area of Walsall Wood of which 43 were found to be satisfactory.

The average chemical results for 1962 of the tap samples from the Waterman's house, Norton Canes, and the Municipal Buildings, Brownhills, were as follows :—

	Brownhills					Norton Canes			
pH	7.7					7.4
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	84	parts per million	..	..	..	117
Chlorides (Cl)	15.7	..	..	..	..	31.6
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	..	..	..	..	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	Trace	..	..	..	..	Trace
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	3.9	..	..	..	..	10.5
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)12	..	..	..	..	.12
Temporary Hardness	78	..	..	..	..	112
Permanent Hardness	51	..	..	..	..	138
Total Hardness	129	..	..	..	..	250
Iron (Fe)	Trace	..	..	..	..	0.1
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	..	..	..	..	Nil
Zinc (Zn)	Nil	..	..	..	..	Nil
Poisonous Metals (Cu and Pb)	Nil	..	..	..	..	Nil
Free Cl	Trace	..	..	..	..	Nil

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, no lead being found in any of the samples examined.
4. Sterilisation of waters is carried out where possible at the pumping stations as a precautionary measure. Special apparatus and staff are available in the event of contamination. Chlorination on site is practised, following burst mains, etc., laying of new mains, and emptying reservoirs. New mains, etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.
5. Number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains :—

(a) direct to the houses	..	..	..	..	8,884
(b) by means of standpipes	..	..	..		33
					8,917

The population is estimated by the Company at 3.75 persons per house."

PART IV—SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

There are 39 pail closets and 23 privies in use in the district, and the majority of these are situate in the Norton Canes ward. There are a number of houses on the fringe of the development, where the provision of sewers would involve a pumping station, and I am of the opinion this would be a justifiable cost. During the year the proposed sewer in Norton Canes was being constructed, and when completed will enable some ten houses to be connected to the sewer.

TABLE I—SEWER AVAILABLE.

District	Pails		Privies	
	To be converted	For H.A. action	To be converted	For H.A. action
Norton Canes (including Little Wyrley)	—	1	—	1
Brownhills West	—	—	—	—
Walsall Wood	—	—	—	—
Shelfield and High Heath	—	—	—	—
Brownhills	—	1	—	—
Totals ..	—	2	—	1

TABLE II—SEWER NOT AVAILABLE.

District	Pails	Privies
Norton Canes (including Little Wyrley)	25	15
Brownhills West	7	3
Walsall Wood	5	2
Shelfield and High Heath	—	1
Brownhills	—	1
Totals ..	37	22

PART V—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

- (1) Brownhills, Brownhills West, Clayhanger, Sandhills and Walsall Wood are sewered to the Green Lane Works, Walsall Wood. Over the last 10 years work has been systematically carried out with a view to modernisation and to the rectification of damage caused by mining subsidence. The new trunk sewers now in course of construction avoid the subsidence areas and should ensure that sewage reaches the works. The brook receiving the effluent has no great volume of flow and it is, therefore, essential that the effluent from the works reaches a high standard of purity.

Regular samples are taken of the effluent, and the brook course, above and below the point of discharge. Copies of the results

are forwarded to the Engineer and Surveyor. Unfortunately these samples results are only an indication of the unsatisfactory state one may expect to find the brook in farther down the course. It is, however, obvious that only the enlargement and re-construction of Walsall Wood sewage works will provide a permanent solution to this problem.

- (2) Norton Canes has its own sewerage system, and disposal works constructed about 20 years ago. If reference is made to the tables shown under Part IV of this report it will be seen that 42 houses in the Norton Canes ward are without water closets. Norton Road, Heath Hayes (10 houses), the end of Hednesford Road, Norton Canes (10 houses), and Butts Lane, Norton Canes (5 houses), are the main groups of houses without a public sewer. It is to be hoped that when private developments take place some, if not all, of these properties will be able to be connected to a public sewer.
- (3) The Shelfield and High Heath Areas are sewered to the Goscote works operated by the Goscote Joint Board. The Council make a contribution towards the cost.
- (4) Watling Street, Brownhills, and the recent development in this area are sewered to a disposal plant operated by Lichfield Rural District Council. By far the greater volume of flow received at the works comes from this Urban District.
- (5) A colliery, café and three houses at Heath Hayes are sewered to a system controlled by Cannock Urban District Council.

PART VI—REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collection and disposal of refuse is controlled by the Engineer and Surveyor. Complaints received in the Health Department are transferred to that office for attention.

From a public health point of view a weekly collection should be the minimum to be aimed at.

Many complaints have been received about the poor condition of the Tip at Clayhanger. It is to be hoped that when this Tip is completed and the New Tip is commenced that Controlled Tipping will be instituted from the beginning, thus avoiding nuisance and making possible the reclamation of much valuable land.

The dustbin supply service operated by the Health Department has issued 551 bins during the year.

PART VII

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Total Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,484
Complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	197
Houses inspected—Public Health Act, repairs..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	963
—Housing Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	476
—Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
—Verminous or Dirty	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	127
—Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	123
—Subsidence Damage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
—Certificates of Disrepair	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	200
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121
Fish Fryers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	108
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	453
Meat Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	399
Other Food Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67
Dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	226
New Dustbins delivered	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	551
Ashpits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Refuse Tips	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Water Closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93
Pails	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Privies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Cesspools, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Drains—new and/or tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
—existing and/or defective	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
—cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	123
Keeping of animals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	382
Clean Air	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Petroleum Storage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Factories—mechanical	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	276
Infectious Disease Enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	160
Disinfections and Disinfestations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	109
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	662
Samples—water, bacteriological	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136
—chemical	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
—faecal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	171
—Atmospheric Pollution	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72

NOTICES SERVED

Informal Notices brought forward from 1961	..	..	..	..	84
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	52
Informal Notices complied with	..	..	..	..	59
Informal Notices carried forward to 1963	..	..	..	..	77

FOOD HYGIENE

Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Notices complied with	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19

STATUTORY NOTICES.

TABLE III

	Brought forward from 1961	Served	Complied with	Carried forward to 1963
Section 26, Public Health Act, 1936	—	2	—	2
Section 32, Public Health Act, 1936	—	1	1	—
Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936	12	—	2	10
Section 45, Public Health Act, 1936	3	1	2	2
Sections 92, 93, Public Health Act, 1936	12	8	14	6
Section 9, Housing Act, 1936	2	—	—	2
Section 15, Housing Act, 1961	—	3	—	3
Totals	29	15	19	25

PART VIII—HOUSING

The Council have pursued their policy of dealing with houses in the slum clearance category as approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. It is necessary for the number of confirmed clearance orders to be in advance of the house building programme as houses cannot be kept waiting for families.

Individual Unfit Houses

The Council made Demolition Orders or Closing Orders in respect of the following 42 houses :—

- (Part of) 199, The Wilkin, Brownhills.
- 44, Coronation Road, High Heath, Pelsall.
- 79, 81, Cannock Road, Heath Hayes.
- 128, 129, 130, Watling Street, Brownhills.
- 176, 177, Watling Street, Brownhills.
- 213, 215, Norton East Road, Norton Canes.
- 14, 16, School Road, Norton Canes.
- 15, 17, High Street, Clayhanger.
- 123, 125, 127, 129, Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood.
- 36, Bridge Street, Clayhanger.
- 160, 161, 162, 163, Watling Street, Brownhills.
- 56, 58, Lichfield Road, Walsall Wood.
- 25, 27, 29, 31, High Street, Clayhanger.
- 4, 6, Bridge Street, Clayhanger.
- 59, 61, Bridge Street, Clayhanger.
- 47, 49, Bridge Street, Clayhanger.
- 150, 152, 154, 166, Pelsall Road, Brownhills.
- 21, 23, High Street, Clayhanger.

Clearance Areas

55 houses were dealt with by Clearance Area procedure :—

Clearance Area No. 62 :

8-18, Norton East Road,
Norton Canes.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 63 :

135-145, Norton East Road,
Norton Canes.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 64 :

187-193, Norton East Road,
Norton Canes.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 65 :

229-235, Norton East Road,
Norton Canes.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 66 :

186, 192, 194, 204-214, 238-242,
High Street, Brownhills.

Compulsory Purchase Order

Clearance Area No. 67 :

55-67, Clayhanger Lane,
Brownhills.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 68 :

3-11, Brickiln Street,
Brownhills.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 69 :

19-33, Brickiln Street,
Brownhills.

Clearance Order.

Clearance Area No. 70 :

16-20, Brickiln Street,
Brownhills.

Clearance Order.

The following is an analysis of the above work under the Housing Acts, along with the repair work carried out under the Public Health Act :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

- | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|-------|
| (1) (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | .. .. . | 164 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for that purpose | .. | 1,439 |

(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	97
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice :	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	59
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :	
(a) Proceedings under Section 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	—
(a) by Owners	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ..	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	52
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by Owners	19
(b) by Local Authority in default by Owners ..	—
(c) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..	40
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	33
(d) Number of Closing Orders made under Section 17 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957 ..	2
(e) Undertaking accepted under Section 16 (4) of the Housing Act, 1957	—
(f) Procedure under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957 :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses included in declared Clearance Areas	55
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of confirmed Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders	49
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished on certificate of unfitness of Medical Officer ..	24

4. Rehousing from unfit property :

Families rehoused from Clearance Areas	62
Persons rehoused from Clearance Areas	180
Families rehoused from Demolition Orders, etc... ..	48
Persons rehoused from Demolition Orders, etc.	143
Families rehoused from houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	15
Persons rehoused from houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	41

Houses in Multi-Occupation

During the year two premises in multi-occupation were dealt with. In one case informal action resulted in the number of families in occupation being reduced and improved amenities provided for the remaining tenants. In the other case after the service of a notice under Section 15 of the Housing Act, 1961, the owner submitted a scheme to convert the premises into three self contained flats, but the work had not been commenced by the end of the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) Discretionary Grants

There were no applications for discretionary grants during the year.

(b) Standard Grants

12 applications for standard grants were received (Nos. S/42 to S/53 inclusive). None were refused.

In accordance with Circular 42/62 of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, in which the Council were required to let the Ministry know what action they proposed to take with regard to Improvement Areas, a survey was carried out which showed that blocks of properties totalling some 300 dwellings were capable of improvement by means of grant. Circular letters and Ministry booklets on improvement grants were to be sent out with the rate demands to the owners of the properties.

It will be interesting to see how many owners of these properties will take advantage of the grants at their disposal. Should the results of this action be disappointing it is to be hoped that local authorities will be given statutory powers to compel owners of such properties to provide them with modern amenities for their tenants.

Certificates of Disrepair

No applications were received for certificates of disrepair.

It would appear that the abundance of forms required by the Rent Act, 1957, have failed to improve the conditions under which people live, as the procedure is so cumbersome and the delay in getting the work done is so great, that tenants are not applying for the certificates.

COUNCIL HOUSES

The Architectural section of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department has supplied the following information in respect of Council houses as at 31st December, 1962 :—

Prior to the late War :—

Act under which constructed	Bedrooms			Bungalows Old			Total
	Two	Three	Four	Prefabs	Persons	Flats	
1919	—	250	—	—	—	—	250
1923	—	154	—	—	—	—	154
1924	92	158	—	—	—	—	250
1925	102	344	30	—	6	—	482
1930	44	56	30	—	—	—	130
Totals	238	962	60	—	6	—	1,266

Post War :—

Year constructed	Bedrooms			Bungalows Old			Total
	Two	Three	Four	Prefabs	Persons	Flats	
1946	—	1	—	50	—	—	51
1947	4	36	—	—	—	—	40
1948	4	53	—	80	—	—	137
1949	2	39	—	13	8	—	62
1950	—	57	1	—	—	—	58
1951	8	48	—	—	—	—	56
1952	6	58	—	—	—	—	64
1953	10	86	1	—	—	—	97
1954	18	111	1	—	—	—	130
1955	30	175	—	—	—	8	213
1956	26	174	—	—	18	—	218
1957	38	193	—	—	85	36	352
1958	60	126	—	—	67	1	254
1959	18	44	—	—	29	—	91
1960	84	84	—	—	11	16	195
1961	59	105	—	—	4	81	249
1962	62	52	—	—	24	102	240
Totals	429	1,442	3	143	246	244	2,507

PART IX—FOOD HYGIENE

During the year inspections under the Licensing Act, 1961, were carried out of all licensed clubs, and this has resulted in great improvements in the amenities provided in these establishments for their members.

As will be seen in the Medical Officer of Health's section of the report, cases of dysentery and food poisoning are still occurring and strict control of all food handlers is very necessary, as the slightest carelessness on any individual handler's part can result in serious consequences.

Types of Food Premises

Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	1
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	25
Wholesale Grocers	..	..	..	..	1
Ice Cream Sales	..	..	..	..	127
Ice Cream Manufacturers	..	..	..	..	1
Fish Fryers	..	..	..	..	8
General Stores	..	..	..	..	186
Catering Establishments	..	..	..	..	11
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	34
Total					394

Ice Cream

127 shops are registered for the sale of ice cream and there is one business registered for the manufacture of ice cream by a hot mix process.

Meat Inspection

Two private slaughterhouses hold current licences and are in regular use. The amount of slaughtering which takes place outside normal office hours means that some overtime working has been necessary to maintain 100% meat inspection service. The premises and equipment have now been brought up to the standard required by the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958. It will be noted that no tuberculosis was detected in cattle including cows, but pigs are still being infected.

Other Food Inspected

The following items of food have been surrendered :—

1 tin of Tongue	..	..	1 lb.	0 ozs
3 tins of Corned Beef	..	..	18 lbs.	0 ozs.
3 tins of Chopped Ham	..	..	12 lbs.	0 ozs.
5 tins of Boneless Ham	..	..	65 lbs.	3 ozs.
2 tins of Pork Luncheon Meat	..	..	8 lbs.	0 ozs.
11 tins of Other Meats	..	..	13 lbs.	8 ozs.
89 tins of Fish	..	..	18 lbs.	0 ozs.
2 tins of Sausages	..	..	1 lb.	6 ozs.
4 tins of Meat and Vegetable	..	..	3 lbs.	0 ozs.
13 tins of Soup	..	..	8 lbs.	8 ozs.
20 tins of Peas	..	..	8 lbs.	12 ozs.
9 tins of Beans	..	..	4 lbs.	1 oz.
1 tin of Milk	..	..	1 lb.	0 ozs.
2 tins of Cream	..	..	..	12 ozs.
60 bottles of Sauce	..	..	8 lbs.	12 ozs.
1 Steak and Kidney Pie	..	..	1 lb.	0 ozs.
24 Whole Cakes	..	..	24 lbs.	0 ozs.
19 Shoulders of Cooked Bacon	..	..	308 lbs.	0 ozs.
<hr/>				
Total	..	..	4 cwts. 2 qtrs. 0 lbs.	14 ozs.
<hr/>				

TABLE IV
Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses	Goats
Number killed	753	296	67	2,835	1,636	—	—
Number inspected	753	296	67	2,835	1,636	—	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>							
Whole carcases condemned	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	65	98	—	70	288	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	8.6%	33.1%	—	2.4%	17.4%	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>							
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	50	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	3.0%	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED :—

	Tuberculosis	Other than T.B.
Carcass Meat	nil	8 cwt. 2 qrs. 18 lbs.
Offal	4 cwt. 1 qrs. 3 lbs.	2½ cwt. 2 qrs. 8 lbs.

Diseased meat is collected by the Department van and taken to a firm who manufacture fertilizers.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

The Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for the Staffordshire County Council has supplied the following details of samples taken by his department :—

Details of Samples procured during 1962

Number of Samples taken	..	..	148
Number of Samples genuine	..	..	143
Number of Samples adulterated	..		5

Classification of General Foods

Apricot Jam	Fruit Chocolate Biscuits
Aspirin	Flaked Rice
Apricots in Syrup	Golden Raising Powder
Apricot Chutney	Garden Peas
Bread Sauce	Ground Rice
Butter Beans (2 samples)	Ground Nutmeg
Balsam of Aniseed	Gravy Browning
Butter (2 samples)	Golden Wine
Beetroot	Gin (3 samples)
Biscuits	Hot Dog Sausages in Brine
Beef Sausage	Honey (Blended) (2 samples)
Beefburgers	Instant Coffee (2 samples)
Cheese Spread with Shrimp	Irish Stew
Chicken Noodle Soup	Ice Cream (2 samples)
Cherries in Syrup	Jnr. Beef Dinner
Coffee & Chicory Essence (2 samples)	Kidney & Bladder Pills
Chopped Ham	Lentils
Custard Cream Biscuits	Lemon Curd
Corned Beef	Lucozade Glucose Drink
Cheese Spread	Lemon Quick Jel
Chicken Supreme	Lard
Cream Olive Oil	Lean Cut Corned Beef
Creamed Rice Milk Pudding	Lemon Flavouring
Curry Powder	Margarine (2 samples)
Creamed Sago Milk Pudding	Mixed Fruit (2 samples)
Christmas Pudding	Mussels in Vinegar
Cheese Flavour Potato Crisps	Mixed Pickling Spice
Chicken	Milk Shake Syrup
Cheese Spread with Ham	Meat Paste—Chicken
Cut Mixed Peel	Mint Sauce
Condensed Sweetened Machine	Nurse Harvey's Mixture
Skimmed Milk	Oil of Peppermint Tablets B.P.
Condensed Full Cream Milk	Orange Jelly Marmalade
(Sweetened)	Processed Peas (3 samples)
Drinking Chocolate	Pickled Beetroot
Double Devon Cream	Pineapple Table Jelly
Desiccated Coconut	Pancake Mixture
Epsom Salts	Pickled Onions
Fish Paste—Sardine & Tomato	Puff Biscuits
Fruit Sauce	Parsley Sauce Mix
Fish Paste—Bloater	Pork Luncheon Meat
Frying Oil	Pineapple in Syrup
Fish Paste—Crab	Potted Beef

Pork Sausage (containing pres.) (5 samples)	Strawberries in Heavy Syrup
Pork Dripping	Steak & Dumplings with Gravy
Plain Flour (2 samples)	Split Lentils
Peaches in Heavy Syrup	Sardines in Olive Oil
Pickling Spice	Spaghetti with Tomato & Cheese Sauce
Pineapple Juice	Stoned Dates
Plum Jam	S.R. Flour
Quick Batter Mix	Starch Reduced Potato Crisps
Redcurrant Jelly	Sardines in Tomato Sauce & Olive Oil
Runner Beans	Soft Brown Sugar
Raspberry Jam Roly-Poly	Sugared Strands
Raspberries in Syrup	Tea (3 samples)
Raspberry Table Cream	Tuna
Red Cherries in Syrup	Tomato Ketchup
Ruby Wine	Throat Sweets
Rum (2 samples)	Thyme & Parsley Stuffing
Strawberry Jam	Vinegar
Sweetened Coffee & Chicory Essence	Yeast-Vite Tablets
Salmon Spread	Washed Dried Fruit
Suet Pudding Mix	Whisky (5 samples)

Particulars of Adulterated Samples

12 B/K Cheese Flavour Potato Crisps

Ingredients not stated

Labels amended.

16 B/K Chicken

Should be described as Chicken in Jelly
6.8% deficient in meat.

Old stock withdrawn from sale.

34 B/K Mixed Fruit }

Contains Rice Flour

Taken up with wholesalers.

54 B/K Mixed Fruit }

not declared.

Explanation accepted.

43 B/K Pork Sausage containing Preservative

24.6% deficient in meat.

Taken up with manufacturers.
Explanation accepted.

Milk Supplies

Results of samples of milk taken by the County Council are forwarded to this office for information :—

Type of Milk	Phosphatase Test	Turbidity Test	Methylene Blue Test
Pasteurised	23	—	21*
Sterilised	—	18	—
T.T. Pasteurised ..	25	—	24
T.T. Sterilised	—	—	—
T.T.C.I. Pasteurised ..	19	—	18

*1 sample of Pasteurised milk failed the Methylene Blue Test.

PART X—CLEAN AIR

The Smoke Control Area in High Heath came into operation on 1st October, 1960. The site consists of private houses, council houses and a school.

No further progress has been made with smoke control areas. Despite the valiant efforts of the Chairman of the Health Committee and other progressive Councillors, the Council refused to sanction even a modest extension of the present smoke control area. I feel sure that if the opponents of Clean Air lived in the area, as I do, they would quickly realise the great benefits to be derived from it, and would become enthusiastic supporters of the smoke control programme.

In the main the industrial plants in the district burn fuel smokelessly and are making a worthwhile contribution to clean air. It was, however, a great disappointment that the plant to deal with the nuisance from an aluminium recovery plant which was scheduled to come into operation in the autumn of 1962 was still being installed at the end of the year. The Alkali Inspector has been actively engaged in solving the teething troubles of the plant and I am confident that when the plant is fully operational the nuisance will be abated.

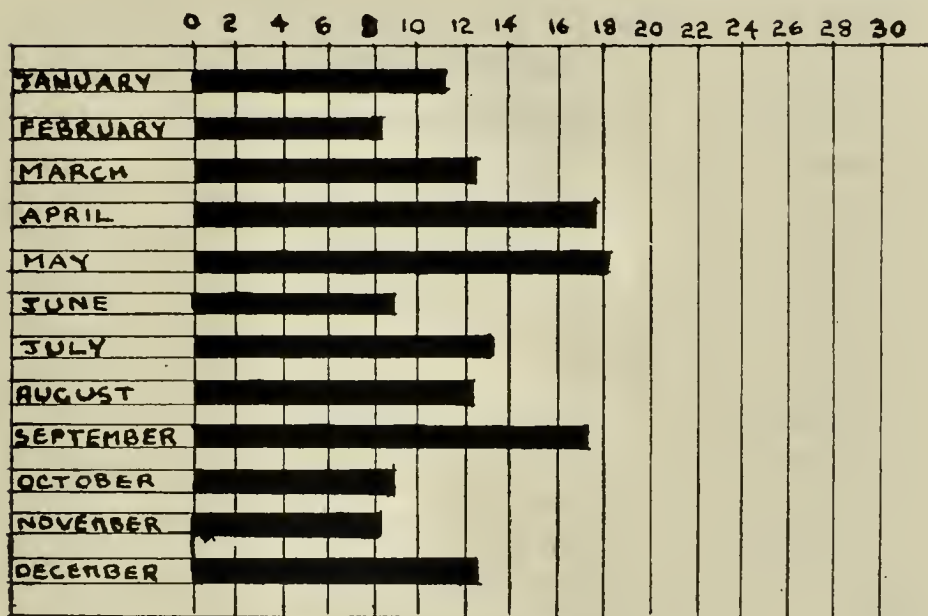
TABLE V—1962
DEPOSIT GAUGES—RECORDS OF DEPOSITS
Deposits in tons per square mile per month.

Month	Norton Canes	Brownhills	Shelfield
January	9.1	11.5	12.9
February	6.7	10.2	8.8
March	12.0	15.9	9.3
April	11.5	15.6	26.7
May	14.5	22.0	—*
June	9.9	14.1	3.6
July	9.4	10.2	20.3
August	12.2	9.6	14.6
September	10.6	14.2	27.4
October	8.0	9.9	—*
November	7.4	6.9	10.3
December	9.8	10.0	17.6
Totals	121.1	150.1	151.5
Monthly Average	10.1	12.5	12.6

*Figures not available.

DEPOSIT GAUGES—1962 SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)

Seasonal Average for whole of District—Tons/sq. Mile per month



DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages) Tons per square Mile per month

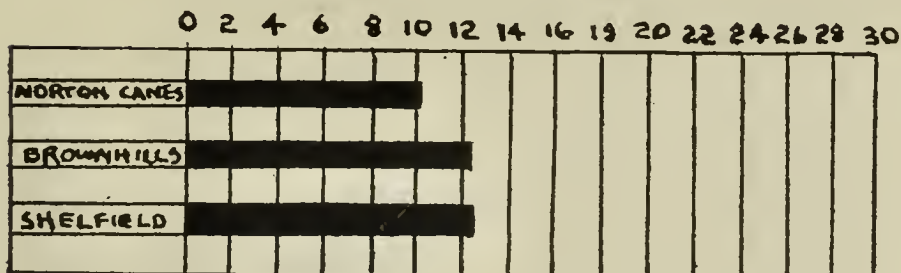


TABLE VI 1962

LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES—RECORD OF SULPHUR POLLUTION

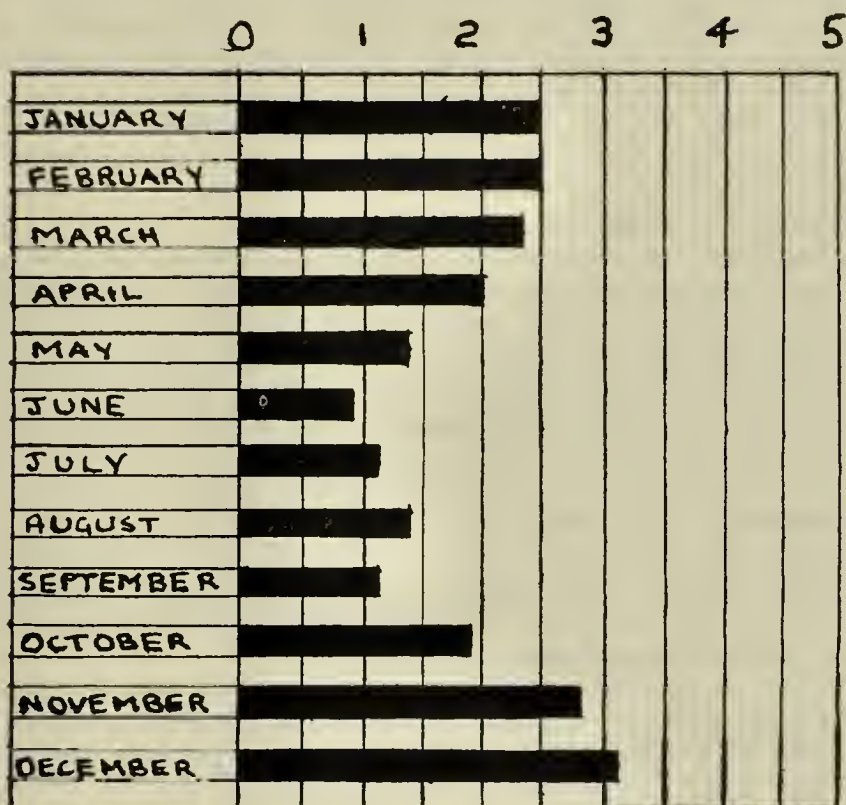
Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected—in milligrams
per 100 square centimetres per day.

Month	Norton Canes	Brownhills	Shelfield
January	1.6	3.3	2.7
February	1.5	3.7	2.3
March	1.8	2.8	2.3
April	1.3	2.8	1.9
May	0.9	1.5	1.8
June	0.5	1.1	1.2
July	1.4	1.1	0.9
August	0.4	2.9	0.8
September	0.8	1.5	0.9
October	1.1	2.5	2.0
November	2.0	3.4	3.1
December	2.2	3.8	3.4
Totals	15.5	30.4	23.3
Monthly Average	1.3	2.5	1.9

LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES—1962 (SULPHUR DIOXIDE)

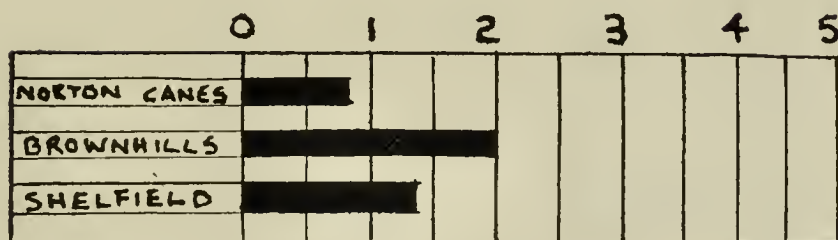
SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)

M/Grams/SO₃ 100 sq. cms./day



DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)

M/Grams/SO₃ 100 sq. cms./day



Shops Act, 1950

The Council are an authority under the Shops Act by reason of powers delegated by the Staffordshire County Council. Visits for the purpose of Shops Act work are frequently combined with those made under the terms of other legislation. There are a few shop-keepers who think nothing of breaking the law by selling all kinds of goods as and when they please. It is another thing to collect the necessary evidence sufficient to obtain a conviction.

The 1950 Act was an endeavour to consolidate the law as it relates to shops, but further legislation is required to clarify the present unsatisfactory position.

Petroleum Act, 1928-1936

There are 42 premises licensed for the storage of petroleum and/or petroleum mixtures within the district. The increasing demand for storage at industrial premises and filling stations means that more time has to be devoted to this branch of the work of the department. Close co-operation with the Engineer and Surveyor's department and the Fire Prevention Officer of Staffordshire County Council Fire Brigade has been maintained in order to ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken in the storage and use of what is potentially a very dangerous substance.

Factories

The Council have indicated their progressive outlook by developing industrial sites. Overspill industry is being received as well as overspill population.

Close co-operation between the Engineer and Surveyor's department and our own has enabled many potential problems to be dealt with at the planning stage and so prevent difficulties occurring when the factories go into production.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	8	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	87	257	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	11	—	—
TOTAL	97	276	—	—

Rodent Control

The Council provides a free service for private dwellings and sewers, sewage works and refuse tips are treated at regular intervals.

Treatments have been carried out as follows :—

		Rats	Mice	Total
Local Authority's Property	..	3	—	3
Dwelling Houses	.. ..	91	23	114
Business Premises	.. ..	6	4	10
Total				127

Mortuary

The mortuary is looked after by a part-time attendant. Considering the war-time construction the premises and equipment have been reasonably well maintained. Plans have been passed for new premises, and when completed should provide proper accommodation for this purpose. 46 bodies were received during the year.

CONCLUSION

I would like to express my thanks to the Council for their support and interest in the working of the department, and thank the officers of all other departments for their co-operation and assistance in matters of common interest.

Yours obediently,

R. H. MANN,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

